

Response Rates for the 2009 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll

The preliminary estimates for the Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll were released in August 31, 2010. All unit response rates were above the U.S. Census Bureau's standards threshold of 60 percent. The Census Bureau also has a standard on the Total Quantity response, which is a measure of the portion of the estimate of interest that is accounted for by responses. The rate must be above 70 percent. For example the Total Quantity Response Rate (TQRR) for the number of full-time employees in a state must be above 70 percent, or at least 70 percent of the estimated total number of the full-time employees must come from responses. Since the data for 2009 come from a sample of governments, the numerator and denominator of the TQRR must be weighted.

The TQRRs for 2009 were usually above the 70 percent standard with some notable exceptions. There are nine states (Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Rhode Island) that are noncompliant for at least one Local government TQRR. See the accompanying Table A. Most of the states are noncompliant on Part-time (PT) Payroll and/or PT Employment, but Connecticut and New Mexico are noncompliant on all key state and local variables. The local government TQRRs in Connecticut were affected by poor response in the dependent schools of municipalities and townships. It would take responses from several of them to affect the TQRRs. Consequently, the data user should beware of education data from this state. In New Mexico, one large school district and one large city failed to respond.

There are eight states (Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Vermont) have state government TQRRs that are noncompliant. This is the first year that these units have had edit/imputation flags that have allowed the calculation of the TQRRs. In all states, the state government TQRRs were affected by poor response from one or two large state colleges/universities. Consequently, the data user should beware of education data from these states.

For the 2010 Survey, new non-response follow-up efforts were taken to try to obtain data from the non respondents identified as critical to obtain for the noncompliant states. We identified the problems in most of the noncompliant states and contacted those units identified as critical to making the state compliant for 2010.

Table A: Noncompliant Response Rates for the 2009 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll

State	FT Employees	FT Payroll	PT Employees	PT Payroll	Total Employees	Total Payroll
State and Local Government TQRRs (in percent)						
Maryland	79.4	81.0	71.9	65.7	77.8	79.7
Massachusetts	75.2	75.2	66.0	68.0	73.0	74.7
Nebraska	84.4	82.9	71.8	67.3	81.0	81.7
New Mexico	65.0	59.1	60.5	60.1	64.2	59.1
Oklahoma	84.9	83.3	75.2	66.1	82.8	82.2
Rhode Island	72.2	72.9	54.6	55.5	68.4	72.0
Local Government TQRRs (in percent)						
Arizona	82.8	77.5	73.6	69.2	80.8	77.0
Colorado	75.2	74.8	63.9	63.1	72.7	73.9
Connecticut	66.7	61.4	57.8	46.8	64.6	60.4
Louisiana	75.4	69.4	76.7	67.2	75.7	69.3
Massachusetts	69.5	69.7	55.3	60.0	66.4	69.1
New Hampshire	83.9	80.7	74.3	66.2	81.3	79.4
New Jersey	77.2	75.8	63.8	64.7	74.3	75.3
New Mexico	60.1	51.9	66.2	59.8	61.0	52.3
Rhode Island	73.8	74.9	66.0	65.6	72.4	74.5
State Government TQRRs (in percent)						
Maryland	73.6	71.2	41.8	28.2	69.2	67.4
Missouri	74.2	66.2	42.4	43.4	66.3	64.4
Nebraska	52.9	48.0	15.8	14.7	42.4	44.9
New Mexico	73.8	69.9	55.6	60.5	69.3	69.2
Ohio	74.3	73.0	57.6	58.1	67.9	71.4
Oklahoma	83.0	79.1	63.4	49.5	77.2	76.3
Rhode Island	69.4	69.7	43.4	46.0	62.2	68.1
Vermont	76.3	73.4	84.6	62.7	77.9	72.7